



**eMSP  
NBSR**

Emerging Ecosystem-based  
Maritime Spatial Planning  
Topics in the North and Baltic  
Sea Regions



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# MSP for Spatial Protection

Joint workshop of the Communities of Practice  
on Ecosystem-Based Approach in MSP and on  
Sustainable Blue Economy of eMSP NBSR project

Annica Brink, Government of Åland

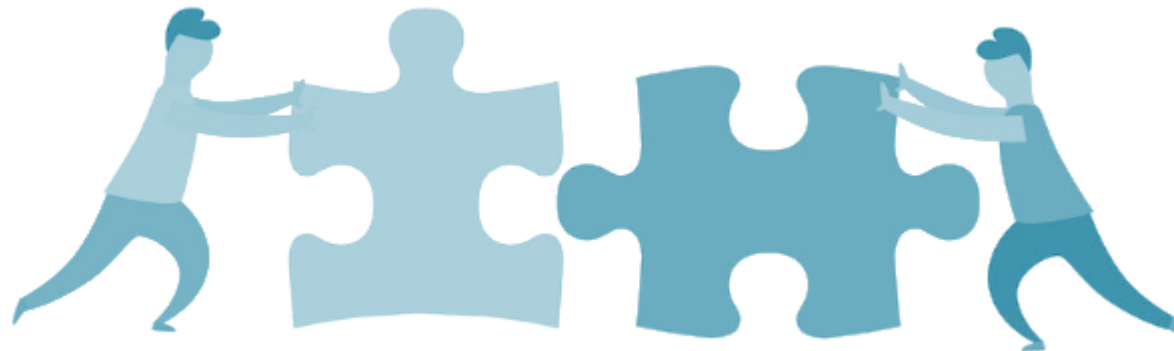
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13.6.2023, Helsinki



## Case study: MSP for spatial protection

- Aim: To improve the linkages and develop the understanding between the MSP community and the nature conservation community



But why...?



## Background

- Spatial protection vs. MSP
- EU Biodiversity strategy—a core part of the European Green Deal
- 30% spatial protection (10% strictly protected) by 2030
- National pledges, coordination between EU member states.
- Consequences & opportunities for MSP





# Survey: National approaches to coordinate MSP and nature conservation

Survey distributed to eMSP NBSR countries:

- Responsibilities and definitions in MSP and marine nature conservation
- Relationship between MSP and nature conservation planning
- How could MSP and MPAs be further integrated in future planning and management?
- Protected areas are included in the MSP?
- Transboundary dimension

- Responses from France, Denmark, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland and Åland



## Main findings—so far (1/3)

### Separation or integration of authorities

Same or integrated organisations



Separate organisations



### The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 – preparation of national “pledges”

MSP authorities involved



MSP authorities consulted



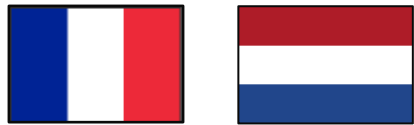
Not involved



## Main findings—so far (2/3)

### Central role in planning of MPA:s, or only takes up what is already planned?

MSP has a clear role



For new MPAs

MSP complements or only takes up



New MSP stronger

### The role of MSP for establishing OECMs

OECM-MSP linkage identified



Fish reserve

'n'-areas

"potential"

Not identified



OECM not yet defined





## Main findings—so far (3/3)

- Proposals for improvement
  - *“Improve knowledge and understanding between authorities”*
  - *“ To create an attitude among decision-makers that protecting nature is not against economy”*
  - *“[Address] barriers between authorities, institutions and people”*
  - *“The bottlenecks can be specified after the first monitoring and evaluation report of the MSP”*
  - *“Clarify regulation”*
  - *“The basis of designation and management measures of an MPA could be included in the description of the area in the MSP”*
  - *“the compatibility between nature environmental objectives in MSP, conservation objectives in MPA and development objectives in MSP is not yet reached and must be improved in the future.”*



## What can we learn?

- MSP has a role in nature conservation planning in the studied countries, but could be improved
  - Awareness among authorities – MSP is a new policy and process
  - Address the political will to include biodiversity considerations in MSP
  - Interaction and breaking down the institutional barriers
  - Clarify regulation to strengthen the coordination
- MSP and nature conservation administrations are separate and in some countries are weakly coordinated
  - Indicating that the comprehensiveness of the MSP is not fully utilised
  - Germany is a good reminder that MSP is also an evolving and learning process

However, policy integration and coordination is time consuming

-> Fast-track possibilities?



## Case study outcomes

- Scientific paper
- Connections between MSP and nature conservation communities
  - Preserve marine biodiversity
  - Sustainable exploitation of marine resources
  - Increased climate resilience
  - 30 by 30 target





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**THANK YOU!**



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